

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

2018 IS HERE! WHAT HAPPENED TO 2017?



RON CROSS
Commission Chairman

Do you recall as a youngster that it seemed Christmas would never come? And as an adult, do you think it seems to occur about once a month? Well, some folks claim that age is the main factor. As a ten year old, a year is ten percent of your life so it seems to take forever to complete. As a fifty year old, a year is only two percent of your life, and so it seems to pass much faster. I really don't know if that makes much sense, but it is as good an explanation as any. I just know as a seventy-six year old time really does fly, and a year doesn't seem like time to accomplish anything. After all, a year is only one and a third percent of my life.

Regardless, long or short, 2017 was a great year for Columbia County. So much was accomplished, and the preliminary work was done for so much to happen in 2018. Thanks to our voters, the monies for the 2017-2022 SPLOST program began to accumulate in

January of 2017. Again, thanks to our voters, the General Obligation Bond (G.O. Bond) funds are in the bank, and the design of those projects is well underway. The Transportation Improvement Act of 2010 (T-SPLOST) resulted in the near completion and opening of River Watch Parkway in 2017. T-SPLOST also has allowed the design of several more road improvements to be close to completion in 2017 such as Flowing Wells Road widening; Fury Ferry Road widening; and Lewiston Road improvements.

The 2017-2022 SPLOST funds allowed us to design and complete the Harlem Library; to purchase and install the mandated 800 MHz radio system for all county public safety personnel; place 25 million dollars to debt retirement, and accumulate thirty

million dollars for our part of a Columbia County Hospital. That is, once the legal challenges are removed. In addition, a previous SPLOST is paying for the completion of the Washington Road widening project in early 2018.

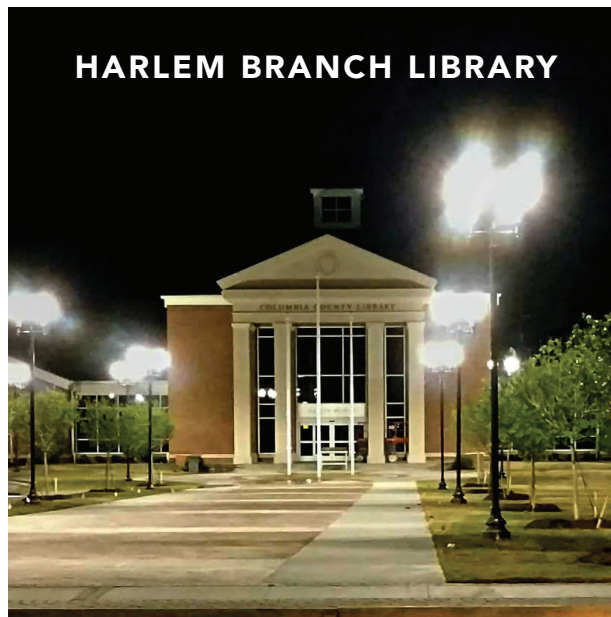
The 2017 G.O. Bond issue has allowed us to begin construction on The Plaza at Evans Towne Center, including the improvement to Evans Towne

Boulevard, and award the contract for the Performing Arts Center at that location. It also allowed us to purchase a new aerial ladder truck for the Columbia County Fire Rescue, and begin design on a new parking deck; four new public parks; extension of the Greenway; a driver training course and shooting range protection for Columbia County Sheriff's Office; the extension of Gateway Boulevard; the Grovetown Library, and purchase new software for the Tax Commissioner. It also

allows us to expand the much needed parking and soccer fields at Patriots Park. In addition, our staff and consultants are working on a complete redesign of our county web page and a mobile app with many additional features.

Discretionary funds received from T-SPLOST and GDOT funds from the gasoline excess tax allowed us to install a new stop light at William Few Parkway and Chamblin Road; install a right turn lane at Fury's Ferry Road and North Belair Road, and complete the design for the Evans to Locks Road improvements from the Towne Center to Blue Ridge Drive.

2017 set the stage for many good things to happen in 2018, but it also allowed many good things to continue. Thanks to a very strong financial condition,



HARLEM BRANCH LIBRARY

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we continue to maintain our AAA Bond rating. This guarantees us the very best bond rates for our voter approved projects and is accomplished without any property tax increases. We are the only county outside of Metro Atlanta with this rating. Our Fire Rescue group continues working under their ISO Class 1 rating. This is a tribute not only to Fire-Rescue but to our water supply utility and our communication system. There are only fifteen of these high ratings in Georgia.

People continue to come to Columbia County. Residential permits in 2017 exceeded a thousand, and commercial permits were over a hundred, exceeding

2016 by twenty. We have more new buildings, new roads, new parks, new ideas, and many other things to happen in 2018.

We are very fortunate in Columbia County to have the citizens that support us and to be able to see improvements and additions in the immediate past and also anticipate many more in the near future. We have the best of all times, past, present, and future. Whether the time seems to pass fast or slow, we are extremely blessed. It is extremely exciting to live in our county. From the Commission and the staff of Columbia County Government, thank you and Happy New Year!



Columbia County Music Series

Andrew Tyson

Sunday, January 28

4:00 pm

Jabez S. Hardin PAC at Columbia County Library

Hailed by BBC Radio as "a real poet of the piano," Andrew Tyson was awarded First Prize at the Géza Anda Competition and has toured Europe and the U.S. with appearances in Zurich, Brussels, St. Petersburg, and at Carnegie Hall.

General admission tickets: \$24
Student/military: \$10 at the door



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COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesdays, January 2nd and 16th, 6:00pm
Tuesdays, February 6th and 20th, 6:00pm

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS MANAGEMENT & INTERNAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING SERVICES

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, January 9th, 8:30am

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES AND COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, January 23rd, 8:30am

MANAGEMENT & INTERNAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING SERVICES

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, February 13th, 8:30am

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES AND COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, February 27th, 8:30am

COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Thursdays January 4th and 18th, 6:00pm
Thursdays February 1st and 15th, 6:00pm

ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is a problem in western cultures world-wide. There are many forms of abuse ranging from neglect to physical abuse, and within that range is financial fraud. Elder fraud can take many forms.

Seniors are disproportionately targeted as victims for fraud. The AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired People) found that while only 35 percent of the American population is over 50 years old, fraud victims over 50 accounted for 57 percent of all fraud.

It's difficult to obtain numbers on how large a problem elder fraud is world-wide. Different organizations calculate numbers in different ways and also define fraud differently. All we can be sure of is that billions of dollars are lost each year to criminals preying on elder citizens.



Fraud and the Internet

Fraudsters play a numbers game. They know that most of their attempts to con people won't work, but they also know that some will. To succeed, the con-man has to make as many tries as possible. Going door-to-door attempting to scam people has low odds because it takes a long time and it's only possible to hit so many doors in a day. Also, once a scam succeeds, the con-man has to high-tail it out of town before getting caught. Then, find another town and start all over.

The Internet removed all those problems for fraudsters. They can now sit in the comfort of their own home, possibly countries away, and through the use of spam email attempt to con thousands of people per day, every day.

Elder fraud is a specific type of fraud aimed at seniors. The most common way that seniors are targeted over the internet is through email. General phishing techniques are used against a large number of email addresses with content aimed at seniors. Content aimed at seniors usually falls into these categories:



1. Medication
2. Financial support with regards to home equity or retirement savings
3. Friendship or camaraderie

If you feel you have been a victim of elder abuse or know of someone who is a victim of elder abuse, please contact the Columbia County Sheriff's Office at 706 541 2800.



Presents:

The 6th Annual Columbia County

SNOW FEST

columbiacountysnowfest.com

JANUARY 13th, 2018 • 10 AM - 5 PM

EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK

FREE ADMISSION

Unlimited Ride Tickets Advanced \$10 | Day of \$12

Tickets Available at Kirkland Flooring, The Mullins Companies (220 Boy Scout Rd.)

& www.CitySpinTickets.com

For more information call 706.854.8636

Benefiting

PRESS ON
To Cure Childhood Cancer



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•LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • CONCESSIONS•

•ARTS & CRAFTS • INFLATABLES & CARNIVAL RIDES•

• WINDSOR ROCK HUNT•

•FASHION SHOW BY MULLINS COLONY'S 
AND YOUR FAVORITE PRINCESSES & FRIENDS!



Date	Time	Program	Branch	Description
Tuesdays	10:30 AM	Child Enrichment	Harlem Library	Each week we will read stories and do crafts geared to help children fall in love with reading.
Sunday, December 31- Monday, January 1	All Day	Columbia County Libraries Closed	All Branches	All Columbia County Libraries are closed for New Years.
Tuesday, January 2	5:30 PM	Teen Crafternoon	Harlem Library	Join us for a craft just for teens. Call 706-650-5009 for more information.
Wednesday, January 3	12 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	Evans Library	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.
Thursday, January 4	5:30-7:30 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Evans Library	This group is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. The group is open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty. Join us for a low-key craft meet-up!
Sunday, January 7	3:30 PM	Investing Basics	Evans Library	Learn the hows and whys of getting started with investments. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Monday, January 8	3 PM	Genealogy Club	Evans Library	Join us to learn the basics then branch out to find your roots!
Monday, January 8	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Euchee Creek Library	Join us for movie fun and light refreshments for the whole family.
Monday, January 8	6:30 PM	Monday Night Book Discussion	Evans Library	Book selection TBA. Call 706-862-1946 ext 4 for details.
Tuesday, January 9	4 PM	Teen Guitar Class	Evans Library	Join us for drop-in guitar instructions. We have up to 6 guitars available for use if students do not have one they can bring in, but they cannot take it home with them. This program is for ages 11-18. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Tuesday, January 9	6 PM	Young Authors Program	Evans Library	Young authors will be provided with snacks and story prompts and a fun environment to share their ideas! Grades 3-5 only, registration info 706-863-1946 ext 3.
Wednesday, January 10	12 PM	Bookkeeping, Payroll, and Business Financial Seminar	Evan Library	Learn the basics of business financials. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Wednesday, January 10	2 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Euchee Creek Library	Bring your own projects - crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc and socialize with others.
Thursday, January 11	10:30 AM	Crochet Class	Harlem Library	Learn new crochet techniques every month. Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Thursday, January 11	1 PM	Columbia County Genealogical Society	Euchee Creek Library	Whether you're an experienced genealogist or just learning to find your roots, this club has something for everyone.
Thursday, January 11	6 PM	Adult Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc.
Friday, January 12	10 AM	Estate Planning	Evans Library	Learn keys to plan for your retirement and beyond. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Friday, January 12	11:30 AM	Dementia Conversations	Evans Library	This program offers helpful tips to assist families with difficult conversations related to dementia, including going to the doctor, deciding when to stop driving, and making legal and financial plans. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 for details.
Saturday, January 13-Monday, January 15	All Day	Columbia County Libraries Closed	All Branches	All Columbia County Library branches are closed for computer system upgrades and Martin Luther King Day.
Tuesday, January 16	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Evans Library	Join us for movie fun and light refreshments for the whole family.
Wednesday, January 17	10:30 AM	Baby Explorers	Evans Library	Drop in with your little explorers to this playtime for babies and toddlers! Ages 0-2.
Thursday, January 18	11 AM	Adult Time Out	Euchee Creek Library	Join us to paint a winter scene with acrylic paints. Registration and supplies required. Call 706-556-0594 for details.
Thursday, January 18	11:30 AM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	Evans Library	January selection TBA. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 for details.
Thursday, January 18	4 PM	Harlem Book Club	Harlem Library	January selection TBA. Call 706-650-5009 for details.
Thursday, January 18	6 PM	Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias	Evans Library	If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, the time for legal and financial planning is now. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association, is for anyone who would like to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Friday, January 19	10 AM-12 PM	Genealogy Class- Free	Evans Library	Learn about free resources you can use to find your family history. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 for details.
Friday, January 19	2 PM	STEM Class	Evans Library	Homeschool students in grades 1-4 will explore estimation skills in this class.
Sunday, January 21	3:30 PM	Managing Your Money	Evans Library	How is your money management. Need help? Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Monday, January 22	4:30 PM	YAActivity Night	Euchee Creek Library	Join us for activities just for teens. Call 706-556-0594 for details.
Tuesday, January 23	4 PM	Teen Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.
Wednesday, January 24	2 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Euchee Creek Library	Bring your own projects - crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc and socialize with others.
Thursday, January 25	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	Euchee Creek Library	January selection TBA. Call 706-556-0594 for details.
Thursday, January 25	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Evans Library	Teens 13-18 will work on their own projects under staff guidance while using library equipment including CAD software, development software, a 3D scanner, a 3D printer, soldering equipment, and general electronics tools.
Sunday, January 28	3:30 PM	Children, Grandchildren, and Your Money	Evans Library	Planning your estate? Learn how to help your children and grandchildren through estate planning. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Monday, January 29	4:30 PM	Otuaku-Rabu Anime Club	Euchee Creek Library	Screening this season's most popular anime. No registration required.

All programs are subject to change. Call your local branch for details. Evans: 706-863-1946 Euchee Ck: 706-556-0594 Harlem: 706-556-9795

For a complete list of library programs, please visit www.gchrl.org